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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
9 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
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11 MATT FURIE, ) Case No. CV 18-1830-MWF (JPRx)  
12 Plaintiff, )  
13 v. ) ORDER RE SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE  
14 INFOWARS, LLC et al. )  
15 Defendants. )  
16 \_\_\_\_\_ )

17 **PLEASE READ THIS ORDER CAREFULLY**  
18

19 The Settlement Conference is placed on calendar for **Tuesday,**  
20 **May 7, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 690 of the Edward R. Roybal**  
21 **Courthouse in Los Angeles, California.**

22 The Magistrate Judge will not be involved in the actual  
23 trial of the case but rather will assist the parties in an  
24 objective appraisal and evaluation of the case. If the case does  
25 not settle, however, the Magistrate Judge will continue to  
26 preside over any discovery disputes that may subsequently arise  
27 between the parties. Settlement allows the parties to avoid the  
28 substantial cost, expenditure of time, and stress that are

1 typically part of the litigation process. Consideration of  
2 settlement is a serious matter that requires thorough preparation  
3 before the Settlement Conference. Below are the procedures the  
4 parties must follow in preparing for the Settlement Conference.

5 1. The purpose of the conference is to permit an informal  
6 discussion among the attorneys, parties, nonparty indemnitors or  
7 insurers, and the settlement judge of every aspect of the case  
8 bearing on its settlement value. Thus, the settlement conference  
9 should not take place until the parties have exchanged any  
10 critical discovery.

11 2. All settlement proceedings are confidential, and no  
12 statement made during them will be admissible in any proceeding  
13 in the case unless the parties otherwise agree. No part of the  
14 Settlement Conference will be reported or otherwise recorded  
15 without the consent of the parties except for any memorialization  
16 of a settlement. Although Local Rule 16-15.8 does not apply to a  
17 settlement conference conducted by a Magistrate Judge, this Court  
18 generally adheres to it.

19 3. In addition to counsel who will try the case, a person  
20 with full settlement authority must be present for each party.  
21 This requirement contemplates the physical presence of each  
22 individual client or, if a corporate or governmental entity, of  
23 an authorized and knowledgeable representative of your client.<sup>1</sup>  
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25 <sup>1</sup> If this matter is a lawsuit in which the United States or  
26 any of its agencies is a party, the Assistant U.S. Attorney who  
27 will try the case may appear without a representative, provided  
28 that he or she comes armed with the full measure of authority  
conveyed by his or her superiors within the U.S. Attorney's Office  
after appropriate consultation.

1 The Plaintiff's representative must have full and final  
2 authority, in the representative's sole discretion, to authorize  
3 dismissal of the case with prejudice or to accept a settlement  
4 amount recommended by the settlement judge in an amount equal to  
5 at least the Defendant's last offer made before the Settlement  
6 Conference. The Defendant's representative must have final  
7 settlement authority to commit the Defendant to pay, in the  
8 representative's sole discretion, a settlement amount recommended  
9 by the settlement judge of as much as the Plaintiff's prayer  
10 (excluding punitive-damages prayers) or up to the Plaintiff's  
11 last demand made before the Settlement Conference, whichever is  
12 lower.

13 The purpose of this requirement is to have representatives  
14 present who can settle the case during the course of the  
15 conference without consulting a superior.

16 4. If Board approval is required to authorize settlement,  
17 the attendance of at least one sitting and knowledgeable member  
18 of the Board (preferably the Chairman) is absolutely required.

19 5. Subject to paragraph 7 below, counsel appearing without  
20 their clients (whether or not counsel claim to have been given  
21 settlement authority) will cause the Settlement Conference to be  
22 cancelled and rescheduled if possible. The noncomplying party or  
23 attorney - or both - may be assessed the costs and expenses  
24 incurred by other parties as a result of such cancellation and  
25 rescheduling.

26 6. Any insurance company that is a party to the case or is  
27 contractually required to defend or to pay damages assessed  
28 within policy limits should have a settlement representative at

1 the conference. The representative must have final settlement  
2 authority to commit the company to pay, in the representative's  
3 sole discretion, an amount recommended by the settlement judge  
4 within the policy limits. The purpose of this requirement is to  
5 have an insurance representative present who can settle the  
6 outstanding claim or claims during the course of the conference  
7 without consulting a superior. An insurance representative  
8 authorized to pay, in his or her sole discretion, up to the  
9 Plaintiff's last demand made before the Settlement Conference  
10 will also satisfy this requirement. Counsel of record will be  
11 responsible for timely advising any involved nonparty insurance  
12 company of the requirements of this Order.

13 7. When a person whose personal attendance would otherwise  
14 be required under the foregoing paragraphs resides outside the  
15 District, the Court will consider excusing his or her personal  
16 attendance as long as the person can and will be available by  
17 telephone during the entire Settlement Conference. If a party  
18 desires to avail itself of this excuse from personal attendance,  
19 counsel should make that request in the party's Settlement  
20 Conference Statement (and specify where the person will be  
21 located during the Settlement Conference). After the party's  
22 Settlement Conference Statement is submitted, counsel should  
23 contact Magistrate Judge Rosenbluth's courtroom deputy clerk to  
24 ascertain whether the request has been granted. Frequently, such  
25 requests are not granted.

26 8. During or after the Settlement Conference, the  
27 Magistrate Judge may, in her discretion, converse with the  
28 lawyers, the parties, the insurance representatives, or any one

1 of them outside the hearing of the others. The comments of the  
2 judge during such separate sessions are not to be used by counsel  
3 in settlement negotiations with opposing counsel. This is a  
4 necessary requirement in order to avoid intentional or  
5 unintentional misquotation of the judge's comments. If all  
6 counsel and parties are not present to hear the Court's opinions,  
7 it is all too easy for counsel to misstate the Court's comments  
8 in an effort to obtain a tactical advantage with opposing  
9 counsel. Violation of this policy may hinder settlement.

10 9. Before the Settlement Conference, the attorneys are  
11 directed to discuss settlement with their respective clients and  
12 insurance representatives, so that the parameters of possible  
13 settlement will have been explored well in advance of the  
14 Settlement Conference. At the Settlement Conference, each party  
15 shall be fully prepared to discuss all economic and noneconomic  
16 factors relevant to a full and final settlement of the case.

17 10. In order to avoid the unnecessary expenditure of  
18 resources if the case is not ripe for settlement, and in order to  
19 provide the parties with a starting point for their settlement  
20 discussions with the Magistrate Judge if the case is ripe for  
21 settlement, Plaintiff shall advise Defendant(s) of the terms upon  
22 which Plaintiff is prepared to settle the case, in a letter  
23 delivered or faxed to Defendant(s) no later than 14 days before  
24 the Settlement Conference. Plaintiff's letter should include a  
25 written itemization of damages and a settlement demand with a  
26 brief explanation of why such a settlement is appropriate.  
27 Within 72 hours of receipt of Plaintiff's settlement offer, each  
28 Defendant shall respond to it by letter advising Plaintiff of the

1 terms upon which that Defendant is prepared to settle the case  
2 and, briefly, why those terms are appropriate.<sup>2</sup> If following  
3 this exchange of settlement offers counsel for any of the parties  
4 believes that the case is not ripe for settlement and that  
5 proceeding with the conference as scheduled will not be a  
6 productive use of the Magistrate Judge's or the parties' time,  
7 counsel for the party or parties shall immediately contact the  
8 courtroom deputy and arrange for a telephonic conference with the  
9 Magistrate Judge to discuss with all parties whether to proceed  
10 with the Settlement Conference as scheduled. If the telephonic  
11 status conference cannot take place at least seven days before  
12 the Settlement Conference date, the parties still must comply  
13 with paragraph 11 below.

14 11. Assuming the Settlement Conference remains on calendar  
15 or the telephonic status conference is scheduled for less than  
16 seven days before the Settlement Conference date, then no later  
17 than 4 p.m. seven days before the scheduled date, each party  
18 shall submit a Settlement Conference Statement directly to the  
19 chambers of Magistrate Judge Rosenbluth (that is, to Roybal  
20 Courthouse, outside Room 1200, 12th Floor, Clerk's Office) or by  
21 fax to (213) 894-5173. Each party shall serve its statement upon  
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23  
24 <sup>2</sup> The Court expects the parties to exchange good-faith  
25 settlement offers. For the Plaintiff, this means offering to  
26 settle on terms less favorable than those Plaintiff reasonably  
27 could expect to achieve if Plaintiff prevailed at trial, taking  
28 into account Plaintiff's nonrecoupable costs of litigation. For  
each Defendant, this means offering to settle on terms less  
favorable than the Defendant reasonably could expect to achieve if  
Defendant prevailed at trial, taking into account Defendant's  
nonrecoupable costs of litigation.

1 the other party on the same day. The statements should not be  
2 filed with the Clerk of the Court. Each Statement must be  
3 double-spaced and should not exceed 10 pages.

4 The parties' respective settlement conference statements  
5 should include the following:

6 A. A brief statement of the facts of the case and  
7 of the claims and defenses remaining to be tried,  
8 including the statutory or other grounds upon which the  
9 claims are founded. This statement should identify the  
10 major factual and legal issues in dispute and cite any  
11 controlling authorities.

12 B. An itemized statement of the damages claimed  
13 and of any other relief sought.

14 C. A summary of the proceedings to date, including  
15 any case management dates/deadlines already set by the  
16 District Judge and any critical discovery the parties  
17 have not yet exchanged, with an explanation of why not.

18 D. A history of past settlement discussions,  
19 offers, and demands, including the most recent settlement  
20 offers exchanged under paragraph 10 above. A copy of  
21 each party's letter sent under paragraph 10 above should  
22 be attached to the party's Settlement Conference  
23 Statement.

24 12. Each party should also prepare a Confidential Addendum  
25 to Settlement Conference Statement, which must be delivered (or  
26 faxed) directly to Magistrate Judge Rosenbluth only, along with  
27 the Settlement Conference Statement. The Confidential Addendum  
28 should not be filed with the Court or served upon the other

1 parties. The Confidential Addendum should contain:

2 A. A forthright evaluation of the party's  
3 likelihood of prevailing on each of its claims and/or  
4 defenses.

5 B. The approximate amount of attorney's fees,  
6 time, and costs expended to date and an estimate of the  
7 fees, time, and costs to be expended for (i) further  
8 discovery, (ii) pretrial preparation, and (iii) trial.

9 C. The party's evaluation of the terms on which  
10 the other side is prepared to settle the case.

11 D. The party's evaluation of the terms on which  
12 the case could be settled fairly, taking into account the  
13 litigation position and settlement position of the other  
14 side.

15 13. If it does not appear to the Court from its review of  
16 the parties' settlement conference statements and confidential  
17 addenda that a Settlement Conference at this juncture is likely  
18 to result in settlement of the matter, the Court may order the  
19 Settlement Conference off calendar or defer it to a later  
20 juncture in the proceedings (for example, after a pending or  
21 anticipated dispositive summary judgment motion has been decided  
22 or critical discovery has been exchanged).

23 14. At the commencement of the conference, counsel for each  
24 party should be prepared to make the equivalent of a brief  
25 opening statement and to respond to the Court's questions  
26 regarding the relevant facts and law, in the presence of all  
27 parties and counsel. Counsel should have available for the  
28 Court's perusal copies of all key documents in the case as well



1 as copies of all important witnesses' deposition transcripts.  
2 The parties should be prepared to address the following questions  
3 at the Settlement Conference. Thus, counsel are ordered to make  
4 a copy of this Order available to their client before the  
5 Settlement Conference and to discuss it with the client.

6 A. What are your goals in the litigation and what  
7 problems would you like to address in the Settlement  
8 Conference? What do you think are the opposing side's  
9 goals?

10 B. What issues need to be resolved, both legally  
11 and otherwise? What are the strengths and weaknesses of  
12 your case?

13 C. Do you understand the opposing side's view of  
14 the case? What is wrong with that view? What is right?

15 D. What are the points of agreement and  
16 disagreement between the parties?

17 E. What are the obstacles to settlement?  
18 Financial? Emotional? Legal?

19 F. Does settlement or further litigation better  
20 enable you to accomplish your goals?

21 G. Is there any additional information you need to  
22 adequately discuss settlement? Is so, how do you plan to  
23 obtain that information?

24 H. Are there any third parties who you think  
25 should be participating in this Settlement Conference?

26 15. Any failure of the trial attorneys, parties, or persons  
27 with settlement authority to attend the conference may result in  
28 sanctions, including the fees and costs expended by the other

1 parties in preparing for and attending the conference. The  
2 failure of any party to timely submit a Settlement Conference  
3 Statement or Confidential Addendum in compliance with this Order,  
4 or otherwise comply strictly with this Order, may result in the  
5 Settlement Conference being ordered off calendar and sanctions  
6 being imposed.

7 16. If settlement between any or all parties is reached as  
8 a result of the Settlement Conference, it is the responsibility  
9 of counsel to immediately report the settlement to the District  
10 Judge's courtroom deputy clerk as well as to timely memorialize  
11 the settlement. See C.D. Cal. R. 16-15.7.

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13 DATED: April 12, 2019

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16 JEAN P. ROSENBLUTH  
17 U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
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